

REMARKS

Claims 11-17 are pending herein, claims 1-10 having been canceled and claims 14-16 having been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. Should claim 17 be allowed, claims 14-16 which depend therefrom should be allowed as well.

1. Claims 11-13 and 17 were rejected under §112, first paragraph, on the grounds that claim 17 contains new matter not supported by the specification. Reconsideration of this rejection is courteously requested.

The Examiner accurately states that claim 17 recites that one of the thickness and density of the insert in a club head increases within a set of clubs as the loft of a club increases and the other of the thickness and density decreases within the set as the loft increases. Thus, if thickness increases, density decreases, and if thickness decreases, density increases. Support for this feature of the invention is found at page 5, lines 5-10 of the specification. As stated therein, inserts can be made with "any combination" of variable thickness and density throughout the set of clubs, including within individual clubs of the set.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph rejection is requested.

2. Claims 17 and 11-13 were also rejected under §103(a) as obvious over the Kobayashi US patent No. 4,754,969 in view of the Shaw US patent No. 5,362,047. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection is courteously requested.

As the Examiner has pointed out, Kobayashi teaches increasing the thickness of club inserts through a set of clubs as the loft increases and Shaw teaches using different materials and thicknesses in club head face plates to adjust the center of gravity in a club head. Shaw provides "a set of club heads wherein the specific gravity of the face-piece components increases from the long irons to the short irons." Col. 3, lines 33-35.

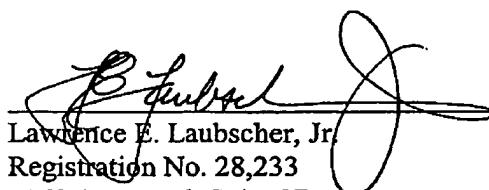
What both Kobayashi and Shaw fail to disclose or suggest is a combination of variable thickness and density going in opposite directions between the top and bottom of a club head as recited in claim 17. This concept is completely new and affords the club head designer to more precisely position the center of gravity relative to other features of the club head throughout a set of clubs so that each club head can be created with a look and feel most desirable to an individual golfer. Moreover, sets of clubs can be tailored to the skill level, swing path and swing speed of a golfer to assist in providing the desired flight path of a struck golf ball.

For all the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure of teaching in either Kobayashi or Shaw which discloses or teaches anything which would have suggested applicant's presently claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in Kobayashi or Shaw which suggest the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's presently claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §103(a) are respectfully requested.

Allowance of all claims 11-17 is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shelly Hubbard

